

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A braking system for a wheelbarrow of the type including a cargo receptacle having a front end, a rear end, two sides and an underside, at least two spaced handles connected to the underside of said cargo receptacle and extending both forward and rearward of said cargo receptacle, at least one front wheel rotably mounted to a forward extension of said at least two spaced handles adjacent said front end of said cargo receptacle, a rear wheel shaft with a length and two exterior ends, said rear wheel shaft being laterally mounted and rigidly attached to two rear wheel brackets, each rear wheel bracket being generally "U" shaped, having a top, a bottom, an interior side, an exterior side and an upright portion, one of each of said two rear wheel brackets installed on the underside and towards the rear of each of said two sides of said cargo receptacle, the length of said rear wheel shaft being sufficient to have each of its exterior ends extend far enough beyond the exterior side of each of said two rear wheel brackets to accommodate the mounting of each of two rear wheels, one of each wheel rotably mounted to each exterior end of said rear wheel shaft, said braking system comprising;

at least one brake pad biased, without aid of the mass of the wheelbarrow and its cargo load, towards engagement with at least one of said two rear wheels to resist rotation thereof; and

at least one brake tension spring having a first end connected to a brake release link and an opposite second end connected to one of said two rear wheel brackets for biasing said braking system to a braked position wherein said at least one brake pad is in engagement with at least one of said two rear wheels; and

two handle uprights, one of each mounted adjacent a rearward end of each of said at least two spaced handles, each handle upright having a generally inverted "U" shape comprising spaced apart upright portions with a handgrip portion therebetween to form a cavity ; and

a brake release lever pivotally mounted within the cavity of one of said two handle uprights with a brake lever pivot stud attaching said brake release lever to one of the spaced apart upright portions of one of the handle uprights; and

a brake link pivot stud pivotally connecting said brake release lever to the brake release link that is pivotally connected to a brake bellcrank, said brake bellcrank being rigidly affixed to a brake shaft rigidly affixed to at least one of said at least one brake pad and rotatable within two bushings, one of each said two bushings rigidly attached to said upright portion of the two rear wheel brackets.

2. The braking system of Claim 1, wherein said brake release lever is movable between a first position and a second position to overcome the tension of said at least one brake tension spring and move said at least one brake pad out of engagement with said two rear wheels; wherein a wheelbarrow employing said braking system may be moved while it is riding on only its said at least two rear wheels, using the two rear wheels as a rolling fulcrum and the two spaced apart handles as levers.
3. The braking system of Claim 1, wherein said brake release lever is movable between a first position and a second position to overcome the tension of said at least one brake tension spring and move the brake pads out of engagement with said two rear wheels; wherein a wheelbarrow employing said braking system

may be moved while it is simultaneously riding on its at least one front wheel and its two rear wheels while it is being propelled.